
Judiciary Committee

ESSB 5263

Title: An act relating to prohibiting devices in schools that are designed to administer to a person or an animal an electric shock, charge, or impulse.

Brief Description: Prohibiting devices in schools that are designed to administer to a person or an animal an electric shock, charge, or impulse.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Judiciary (originally sponsored by Senators Hargrove, Brandland and Tom).

<p style="text-align: center;">Brief Summary of Engrossed Substitute Bill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prohibits a person from possessing or bringing onto school property a stun gun or any device or object used or intended to be used as a weapon with the intent to injure a person with an electric shock, charge, or impulse.
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Hearing Date: 3/18/09

Staff: Edie Adams (786-7180)

Background:

With several exceptions, it is a gross misdemeanor for a person to possess dangerous weapons on public or private elementary or secondary school property. The following dangerous weapons are prohibited: firearms; nun-chu-ka sticks; throwing stars; air guns; and "dangerous weapons" listed under another statute as slung shots, sand clubs, metal knuckles, devices for suppressing the noise of a firearm, and certain knives, such as switchblades.

School property includes the school premises, transportation systems, and areas of any facility while being used exclusively by a public or private school.

Exceptions from the ban on possession of dangerous weapons are made for law enforcement, security or military personnel, persons involved in firearms safety events or competitions,

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persons with concealed pistol licenses who are picking up or dropping off students, and non-students 18 years or older in lawful possession of a dangerous weapon that is secured in a vehicle. In addition, an exception is provided for any person possessing nun-chu-ka sticks, throwing stars, or other dangerous weapons for use in an authorized martial arts class.

An elementary or secondary school student who brings a prohibited weapon to school is subject to expulsion. The school must immediately notify law enforcement and the student's parent or guardian of the violation.

Summary of Bill:

The list of weapons prohibited on school grounds is expanded to include: a portable device manufactured to function as a weapon and which is commonly known as a stun gun; and a device or object which is used or intended to be used as a weapon with the intent to injure a person by an electric shock, charge, or impulse.

An exception is provided for any person who possesses the stun gun or device for a purpose approved by the school for use in a school authorized event or activity.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.